

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 SY-05 MCT-01
A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 CA-01 AID-05 USSS-00 OMB-01 PC-01
/116 W

-----121215 131337Z /46

R 131045Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7832
INFO CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 3532

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IR
SUBJ: CIVIL SITUATION: BOMBING OF DISSIDENT HOMES; ARTIST
ARRESTED

REF: A. TEHRAN 3353, B. TEHRAN 3242, C. TEHRAN 3027
D. TEHRAN 3245

SUMMARY: BOMBINGS REPORTED REF A CREDITED TO "UNDERGROUND
COMMITTEE FOR VENGEANCE." PROMINENT DISSIDENT DENTIST KIDNAPPED
AND BEATEN. RANDOM ACTS OF VIOLENCE APPEAR TO BE EASING, BUT
DISSIDENTS CONCERNED BY GOI ACTIONS. ARTIST BABILA FINALLY
ARRESTED APRIL 10. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT LEAFLETS IN PERSIAN WERE DISTRIBUTED
AT BOMBINGS OF HOMES OF THREE PROMINENT DISSIDENTS REPORT
REF A. FLYERS CONTAINED MESSAGE THAT THESE BOMGINS ARE
"WARNING TO OPPOSITIONAISTS TO STOP VIOLENT ACTIVITIES".
LEAFLETS WERE SIGNED "UNDERGROUND COMMITTEE FOR VENGEANCE",
UNHEARD OF UNTIL THIS INCIDENT.

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JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE SEEN THESE LEAFLETS DESCRIBE THEM
AS SIMILAR IN TONE TO OTHER ANTI-DISSIDENT TRACTS
DISTRIBUTED WEEKS EARLIER AND ATTRIBUTE BOMBINGS TO
GROUPS OF THUGS, PROBABLY WITH LINKS TO EITHER RESURGENCE
PARTY OR TO SECURITY FORCES. THERE IS NO RPT NO HARD
EVIDENCE TO THIS EFFECT. HOWEVER, FACT PRESS HAS NOT MENTIONED
THESE BOMBINGS AND GOI HAS BEEN SILENT ON MATTER DOES

SUGGEST POSSIBILITY OF SOME SORT OF OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL INVOLVEMENT.

2. DISSIDENT SOURCE HAS TOLD US OF FOURTH BOMBING SAME NIGHT AT HOME OF MAHMOUD MANIAN, PROMINENT BAZAAR MERCHANT ASSOCIATED WITH A RELIGIOUS (ALI SHARIATI) MOVEMENT. SAME LEAFLET LEFT HERE. ACCORINDG TO SAME SOURCE, VICTIMS HAVE BEEN RECEIVING SERIES OF TELEPHONE CALLS THREATENING FURTHER VIOLENCE IF THEY DO NOT CHANGE THEIR WAYS. VICTIMS BLAME GOVERNMENT, SPECIFICALLY RESURGENCE PARTY PROGRESSIVE WING LEADER MAJIDI.

3. ON SAME NIGHT, APRIL 9, PROMINENT OPPOSITION DENTIST HABIBOLAH PEYMAN WAS TAKEN FROM HIS HOME BY THREE OR FOUR UNIDENTIFIED MEN AND DRIVEN OUT OF TEHRAN ON KARAJ ROAD, WHERE HE WAS BEATEN AND LEFT SEMI-CONSCIOUS BY ROADSIDE. PEYMAN HITCHHIKED TO HOME OF FRIEND IN DISSIDENT MOVEMENT. HE TOLD SOURCE HE COULD NOT IDENTIFY HIS ATTEACKERS, BUT THOUGH THEY WERE YOUNG GOONS, PERHAPS UNEMPLOYED, PERHAPS ON "CONTRACT" TO SOME PRO-GOVERNEMENT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEHRAN 3532

GROUP. HE LATER APPEARED, SHOWING HIS BRUISES, WITH HIS LAWYER, BEFORE CIVILIAN COURT EXAMINING MAGISTRATE TO REPORT AND COMPLAIN ABOUT THE INCIDENT.

4. ALTHOUGH PROGRESSIVE WING LEADER MAJIDI HAS SAID HE

WAS MISQUOTED IN REPORTS OF HIS STATEMENT THAT RESURGENCE PARTY ACTION COMMITTEES WOULD USE FORCE AGAINST SABOTEURS (HE LATER CLAIMED ONLY "POLITICAL ACTION" WAS MEANT), GOI HAS NOT RPT NOT COME OUT WITH ANY OTHER STATEMENT CONDEMNING VIOLENCE AGAINST OPPOSITIONISTS AND HIS TRIED TO IGNORE MATTER, ALSO SUGGESTING THAT PRESS DO SO. ALL THIS LEADS MANY TO WONDER IF THOSE WHO SUPPORT GOI ARE ATTEMPTING TO LIMIT SCOPE OF DISSIDENT ACTION BY CRUDE TACTICE OF SHOWING THAT VIOLENCE BEGETS VIOLENCE.

5. ACTUALLY, OVER PAST THREE DAYS, REPORTED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE HAVE TAPERED OFF. GOVERNMENT AND RESURGENCE PARTY SOURCES HAVE REPORTED FLOODS OF LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS URGING MORE PRO-GOI ACTIVITY AGAINST TROUBLE-MAKERS. PARTY IS CONSEQUENTLY HOLDING MEETINGS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCERNED PERSONS IN MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN ARTICLES IN THE PRESS SUGGESTING THAT MORE DEBATE AND PUBLIC EXPOSURE WILL DISCREDIT THE TROUBLE-MAKERS FROM LEFT AND RIGHT.

6. INCIDENTALLY, ASHUR BABILA WAS FINALLY ARRESTED APRIL 10 FOR FAILING TO SHOW UP IN COURT TO DEFEND HIMSELF OF CHARGES OF CORRUPTING PUBLIC MORALS (REF C). DESPITE JUSTICE OFFICIAL'S STATEMENT TO US THAT CASE WOULD PROBABLY BE DROPPED (REF D), PROSECUTOR SERVED WARRANT APRIL 10, AND BABILA WAS RELEASED ON BAIL UNTIL TRIAL. UNOFFICIAL SOURCE SAID THERE IS REAL CONFLICT WITHIN JUDICIARY ON THIS ONE--PRESSURE ON PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE FROM CONSERVATIVES TO "MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF BABILA" AND COUNTERPRESSURE FROM JUDICIARY TO EFFECT THAT GOVERNMENT OUGHT TO BE ABOVE THIS KIND OF HARASSMENT. REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER CASE WILL ACUTALLY COME TO FAIRLY NOISY PUBLIC TRIAL OR WHEHTER DISCREET BUT STRENUOUS BACKSTAGE MANEUVERING WILL RESULT IN CASE FINALLY BEING DROPPED OR SETTLED QUIETLY. SULLIVAN

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TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IR
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